

March 23, 2006
Informational Correspondence

AGENDA ITEM #11

Rationale for Delta Summit for Local Officials was presented to the Commission by Marci Coglianese during public comment on January 26, 2006.
(Staff has followed up to discuss role for Commission.)

San Francisco Chronicle article, dated January 22, 2006, entitled Delta Development at a Crisis Point presented to Commission by Peggy Bohl during public comment on January 26, 2006.

Letter dated February 6, 2006 to City of Dixon, Director of Public Works from Executive Director in response to City's request for input regarding the feasibility of Wastewater Treatment Plan improvements.

Letter dated February 6, 2006 to State Senator Tom Torlakson expressing support for Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 62 – California Delta Trail.
(Letter sent pursuant to Commission action on January 26, 2006, included reference to importance of recognizing public health and safety, and infrastructure needs as a priority for State funding.)

Notice of UC Berkeley workshop—Re-envisioning the Delta on March 16th & 17th provided by Peggy Bohl during public comment on March 2nd.
(Notice previously provided to Commissioners electronically by staff.)

Letter dated January 3, 2006 from Solano Land Trust providing notification of a meeting to be held on February 21, 2006 regarding a potential restoration project on Department of Fish and Game's Calhoun Cut Ecological Reserve, Solano County.
(Staff is participating in the meetings and public input process in coordination with Commissioners that have expressed an interest.)

Letter dated January 11, 2006 from the Sportsmen Yacht Club to the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors w/copy to DPC expressing concerns with lash barges in Mayberry Slough presenting a navigation hazard.
(Staff coordinated with Commissioners Nottoli, Johnson, and Piepho, as well as Contra Costa County and Sacramento County Sheriff Department Boat Patrols, and California Conservation Corps to initiate a process to address the situation.)

Notice dated January 17, 2006 from the Great Valley Center inviting DPC to publicize the GVC Annual Conference -- At the Tipping Point, to be held May 10th and 11th in Sacramento.
(Staff has committed to provide DPC electronic Commission and interested party lists.)

Notice from Sacramento County about upcoming workshops and focus group discussions of the County's General Plan update: January 25th, February 15th, March 15th and April 19th.
(Staff attending March and April.)

Letter dated January 27, 2006 from the Sacramento County Bar Association/State Bar of California, Environmental Law Section to the Executive Director expressing appreciation for her participation on the panel to discuss Challenges in the Sacramento Delta from a Commission perspective.

Letter dated February 11, 2006 from Republican Women Federated to Executive Director expressing appreciation for her presentation about the Commission at their monthly meeting on February 9, 2006.

Notice from Water Education Foundation about Executive Briefing to be held on March 23rd and 24th in Sacramento on Building a Vision: Putting the Pieces Together, where top policy makers and leading agricultural, environmental and urban water stakeholders will provide the latest information on: the Delta Vision; Colorado River - sharing the shortage; levees and flood risk; Infrastructure; Legislative Updates, etc.

(Staff attending.)

Letter dated February 16, 2006 to Congressional Legislators in support of federal funding for levee projects in California.

(Letters sent pursuant to Commission Action

Letter from Miles Clark, dated February 27th regarding his concerns with the decline of reeds in the Delta, particularly Disappointment Slough (see letter attached at request of Mr. Clark).

(Letter forwarded to Commissioners Johnson and Morey.)

Comments from DPC provided on the following projects in the Primary Zone:

(see projects list.)

South Delta Improvements Program; Hamilton Tentative Parcel Map; Dutra Parcel Map Application; Twitchell Island Parcel Map; Shiloh II Wind Plant Project

Comments from DPC provided on the following projects in the Secondary Zone:

(see projects list.)

SMUD - Solano Wind Project, Phase III; Spanos Park West Project, Stockton; East Cypress Corridor Project FEIR (Oakley); Amendment of SMUD Sphere of Influence; Subdivision 9016: DeJesus Property, Oakley; Fulcrum Properties Project, West Sacramento; Los Vaqueros Reservoir Expansion Project; Contra Costa County Urban Limit Line Proposal; Removal Action Work Plan for Harbor Park Development, Pittsburg; Sanctuary Island Master Development Plan DEIR

Letter from Miles Clark

Linda Fiack
Delta Protection Commission
PO Box 530
Walnut Grove, CA, 95690

Dear Linda,

I've leased a berm in the Stockton Delta on Disappointment Slough for 35 years and to this point have never had reason for alarm in regard to the health of the habitats which surround me. But what I'm witnessing currently has given me cause for great concern.

My greatest concern is the health of the reeds. These reeds are the foundation of the berms and serve as a buffer against boat wakes as well as nesting areas for birds and habitat in general for turtles, snakes, otters, beaver, muskrats, fish, and others. Blackbirds in particular thrive in the reeds as do a host of provincial and migratory birds. When these reeds are healthy, they can provide the foundation and protection the berms require, but that is not the case currently.

Due to the robust growth of the invasive water lilly "hyacinth", the reeds have been severely damaged. The State has done a marvelous job killing the hyacinth, considering the restrictions they've incurred, but the reeds were choked out in the interim.

If you tour the Delta in these affected areas at low tide, you'll see the tide line littered with reeds way beyond the norm as well as the fragility of the reed stock and root systems; or tour at high tide and you'll see chunks of reeds torn from their moorings floating throughout the Delta. I happen to be a bird watcher and I no longer see the thatch nests which used to populate the reeds.

In my opinion the reeds can recover, but not without help. With the coming boating season in conjunction with the fragile state of the reeds, I see a recipe for disaster. The wakes are bigger than ever with the popularity of wakeboard boats and larger boats in general populating the back sloughs. A "No Wake Zone" in these sensitive areas would be a life saver for the reeds and animals which depend on their protection. I do realize people (like myself) like to go fast, I've been a water skier all my life and am well aware of the thrill of speed, but this is a crises situation. In the larger sloughs witch are plentiful, people can do what they wish, it's these sensitive areas like Disappointment Slough where a no wake zone would be a savior.

I hope this letter serves as a genesis for action to save the reeds from certain destruction.

Sincerely,

Miles Clark, Concerned Citizen